

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CPR-02 SY-10 USSS-00 OIC-04

NEA-10 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FBIE-00 DRC-01 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7855

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: UNGA PINS

SUBJECT: UNGA - CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS

REF: STATE 227267, USUN 4832

1. NOVEMBER 20 DCM CALLED ON MILAN KOMATINA, CHIEF OF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION (LAST PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT WAS AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF YUGOSLAV UN MISSION), TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AFRICAN AMENDMENT TO PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS CONVENTION. AFTER DCM MADE POINTS SUMMARIZED IN PARA 2 REFTEL, KOMATINA SAID GOY CONSIDERS AFRICAN AMENDMENT UNNECESSARY AND POTENTIALLY HARMFUL, SINCE IT COULD UNDERMINE ENTIRE CONVENTION. WHILE CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES MAY FEEL THAT GENERAL ANTI-TERRORIST CONVENTION MIGHT JEOPARDIZE STATUS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THEY CAN HAVE NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO EXPECT THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION DESIGNED SOLELY TO PROTECT DIPLOMATS COULD HAVE SUCH EFFECTS, HE SAID. AFRICAN NATIONS WHICH SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT DO THEMSELVES A DISSERVICE, SINCE IMPLICATION IS THEY ARE RENEGING ON UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED OBLIGATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROTECT ACCREDITED DIPLOMATS. AMENDMENT MIGHT HAVE DANGEROUS EFFECTS, KOMATINA SAID, BECAUSE ANY TERRORIST COULD KILL A DIPLOMAT

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AND SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIM IT WAS DONE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOME LIBER-

ATION MOVEMENT.

2. KOMATINA ANTICIPATED THAT AMENDMENT WOULD BE REJECTED NOW IF PUT TO VOTE, SINCE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AS WELL AS WESTERNERS, LATIN AMERICANS, AND CERTAIN NONALIGNED ARE OPPOSED. WHILE CONSIDERING AMENDMENT UNDESIRABLE, GOY WOULD PREFER TO AVOID VOTE ON IT SINCE THIS WOULD FORCE AFRICANS AND ARABS, AS WELL AS SOME ASIAN COUNTRIES, INTO POSITION OF DISSENT AND THUS JEOPARDIZE CONVENTION'S BROAD ACCEPTANCE. GOY BELIEVES THAT SOME APPROACH CAN BE FOUND WHICH CAN SATISFY POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF AFRICANS WITHOUT HAVING ANY LEGAL EFFECT OCGCONVENTION. SIXTH COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENT SAHOVIC, YUGOSLAV DELEGATE WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED HEAD OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE, IS SEEKING COMPROMISE MEASURE. POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE ADDING CERTAIN DRAFTING TO PREAMBLE, ATTACHING OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO CONVENTION, AND ALLOWING COUNTRIES VOTING FOR CONVENTION TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS OR MERELY EXPLAIN VOTES. AMONG NONALIGNED, INDIA, GHANA AND BOTSWANA ARE NOW PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTION, AND GIVEN WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION AND OPPOSITION TO AFRICAN AMENDMENT AS PRESENTLY WORDED THESE ENDEAVORS SHOULD MEET WITH SUCCESS, KOMATINA SAID.

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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